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DANGER

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**JUDY and
JIM DEFY
SAVAGE
GORILLA!**



Wilson Chem. Co. Dept. 99, Tyrone, Pa.

DANGER
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Volume 1, Number 14 October, 1955
Printed in the U.S.A.

DANGER

BLACK GOLD!

YOU'RE CLIMBING HAND-OVER-HAND ON BURNING WOODEN PYLONS OF AN OIL WELL THAT THREATENS TO EXPLODE ANY MOMENT. LYING UNCONSCIOUS ON THE PLATFORM OVERHEAD IS YOUR ARCH-ENEMY AND RIVAL COMPETITOR WHO HAS FORCED YOU OUT OF BUSINESS! YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SAVE HIS LIFE OR NOT—BECAUSE CLENCHED IN YOUR HAND IS A BOTTLE OF **NITRO**! WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



THERE AREN'T EMPERORS OR KINGS IN THE UNITED STATES—AND THERE AREN'T ANY DICTATORS. BUT ROYALTY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE POLITICAL. THE MAIN THING THAT COUNTS IS POWER! THAT'S WHAT BIG HUGH NORTON HAD! HE ALSO HAD THE LARGEST OIL WELL IN TEXAS!

ALMOST DONE! JUST A FEW MORE SMACKS— AND THIS COVER'LL BE WEDGED TIGHT!

UGHHH! THERE SHE'S SAPPED NOW!

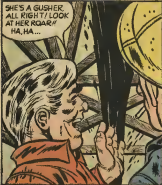


OKAY, BOYS! STEP BACK! I'M GONNA DRAW IN THIS GUSHER WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!

SHE'S ALL YOURS, CHIEF! IT'S A BIG ONE!



SHE'S A GUSHER,
ALL RIGHT! LOOK
AT HER ROAR!
HA, HA...



YOU DID IT, BOSS!
YOU BROUGHT HER
THROUGH AGAIN!

CONGRATULATIONS, HUGH!
THIS SHOULD BRING IN ABOUT
TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND
BARRELS FOR US!

THAT'S NOTHING!
SHELL BRING
IN MORE!



HE'S BIG
HUGH HAD
EVERYTHING
HE WANTED!
HE EVEN
HAD HIS
PRETTY
DAUGHTER
SALLY
TO LOVE
HIM. HE
WAS
RUTHLESS
AND A
TYRANT-
BUT HIS
ONE
WEAKNESS
WAS
SALLY...

OH, DADDY! I'M
SO PROUD OF YOU!
I KNEW IT WOULD
PAY OFF! AND YOU
DROVE YOURSELF
SO!

IT'S ALL FOR YOU, HONEY!
GO BUY YOURSELF ANY-
THING YOU WANT! ORDER
A DOZEN MINK COATS!
HA! HA... WE GOT ENOUGH
BLACK GOLD TO BUY A
CITY!



I'LL GIVE YOU THE
MOON, HONEY! I-
YOU! WHAT'RE YOU
DOING HERE?

HELLO, NORTON!



GET OUT OF
HERE! GET
OFF MY
LAND!
NOW!

HOLD ON, NORTON! SALLY DROVE
ME HERE! I DIDN'T WANT TO
COME--BUT SHE MADE ME! WE
SAW THE GUSHER FROM THE ROAD!
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT! I GOT NO
RIGHT HERE!



WAYDE,
PLEASE!
WAYDE!!

TELL YOUR OLD MAN I'M GONNA
BUILD MY OWN WELL! THAT'S WHAT
IRKS HIM, DOESN'T IT? TELL HIM
ALSO THAT I'M GONNA SEE YOU IF
I WANT TO! HE'S BOSS ON HIS LAND!
BUT NOT OUTSIDE IT!



DANGER

WAYDE CRANDALL WAS A WILDCATTER --ONE OF A HOST OF ENTERPRISING YOUNG MEN WHO COMPETED WITH OIL TYCOONS LIKE NORTON! ONLY HE HAD MADE GOOD! BIG HUGH DISLIKED HIM, HOWEVER, NOT BECAUSE HE WAS HORNING IN ON WHAT HE CONSIDERED HIS OWN MARKET-- BUT BECAUSE WAYDE LOVED SALLY...



OKAY, GUYS! LET'S GET STARTED THIS IS OUR FIRST WELL! WE'LL SHOW NORTON AND ANYONE ELSE HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS A MONEY HOLE!



HEY, WAYDE! TROUBLE! COME HERE! HURRY!

WHA---?



LET GO! I'LL GET THE FIRST RANNIE THAT TRIES TO STOP ME!

GET HIM! GET HIM!

HOLD IT! LEAVE HIM TO ME!



I'LL GET YOU! I'LL---

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BUSTER!!



I'M GONNA TEACH YOU A LESSON! YOU DIDN'T THINK THIS UP ALL BY YOUR LONESOME, FELLA! SPILL IT --OR I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU HAD!

I--I---



COME ON, I SAID! SPILL IT!!

D-DON'T CRANDALL! I'LL TELL! B-BIG HUGH SENT ME HERE--TO SLOW UP YOUR PROGRESS! T-THAT'S THE TRUTH!

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DANGER

WAYDE, DEAR! IS--IS SOMETHING THE MATTER? I-I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR FATHER'S BEHAVIOR BACK THERE!

SAVE IT SALLY! I JUST CAUGHT A SPY IN THE WORKS HERE-- SENT ESPECIALLY FROM YOUR EVER-LOVIN' DADDY TO SLOW ME UP!



NO! IT-IT'S NOT TRUE! FATHER WOULDN'T--! WAYDE-- I-I CAN'T HIDE IT FROM MYSELF ANY LONGER! YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT FATHER... POOR FATHER....

THAT'S ALL I WANT, BABY! WE'RE GONNA SHOW YOUR OLD MAN THAT WE HAVE SPUNK! START 'ER ROLLING BOYS! **BACK TO WORK!**



WEEKS PASSED--AND SLOWLY WAYDE CRANDAL'S OIL WELL ROSE INTO THE SKY! HIS ENTIRE SAVINGS HAD BEEN SUNK IN THE VENTURE, BUT IT ALSO REPRESENTED HIS LOVE FOR SALLY NORTON! A MAN GETS RICH FOR MANY REASONS, WAYDE'S REASON WAS TO WIN SALLY HIS WAY!



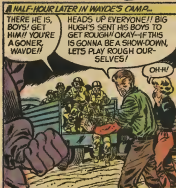
HE DID IT IN RECORD TIME! WELL! WELL! IT'S A SHAME IT HAS TO COME DOWN! BUT NO YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPER IS GONNA TAKE MY DAUGHTER AWAY FROM ME!



OKAY, BOYS! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! KEEP SLOWING HIM UP !! I WANT HIM TO LOSE HIS OPTION! THEN, I'LL TAKE OVER!

DON'T WORRY, CHIEF! IT'S AS GOOD AS DONE!





DANGER!

THE LAND NOW HAD BECOME A MASS OF BLACK SOOT AND SMOKE, MIXED WITH THE ACRID ODOR OF BURNING OIL-- MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH! CRANDAL AND HIS MEN HURRIED MOMENTS LATER...

WOW!! I NEVER SEEN NUTHIN' LIKE THIS IN MY WHOLE LIFE!!--MUST BE OVER A DOZEN WELLS GOING UP!

IF WE CAN BLOW UP THAT LAST WELL, SHE WON'T SPREAD!!



WAYDE--OLD MAN NORTON'S UP THERE ON THAT PLATFORM-- UNCONSCIOUS! HE GOT KO'ED BY THE SMOKE WHEN HE TRIED TO SAVE THE WELL!!

FATHER-- UP THERE! OH-- DON'T WORRY, HONEY! I'LL SAVE HIM IF I CAN! AH-- HERE'S THE NITRO!!



MOMENTS AFTERWARDS...

OH--H--H--!

GOTTA WORK FAST... THERE'S NORTON!



THERE! THAT SHOULD DO IT! WHEN THOSE FLAMES REACH THIS BOTTLE--SHE'LL KNOCK THIS SUPPORT SKY-HIGH! NORTON--CAN YOU HEAR ME? GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

CRANDAL-- COUGH... COUGH... DON'T BE A FOOL! I--I'M DONE FOR!-- SAVE YOURSELF!



I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO ARGUE! I'M GONNA GET YOU DOWN IF I HAVTA CARRY YOU LIKE A SACK O' WHEAT!!

FASTER, DARLING! FASTER!! THE FLAMES--BEHIND YOU!! **HURRY!!**



BUT WAYDE CRANDAL HAD CLEARED THE WELL SECONDS BEFORE... LATER...

DARLING-- DARLING! YOU'RE SAFE!

SHAKE, SON! I-I CAN'T SAY MUCH NOW--BUT WHEN WE'RE ALL RESTED AND CLEANED UP YOU AND I ARE GONNA START BUILDING AGAIN--AS NORTON & SON, INC! THERE'S ENOUGH "BLACK" GOLD FOR EVERYONE!



THE END

ANGER

THE WEST RIVER TUNNEL HAD BEEN A BATTLE EVERY INCH OF THE WAY...



I'LL HAVE YOU FREE, HARRY! JUST A FEW MORE YANKS!

NO, THE RIVER'S GOT ME, JACK! SCRAM NOW BEFORE IT GETS YOU!

DAVE O'BRIEN

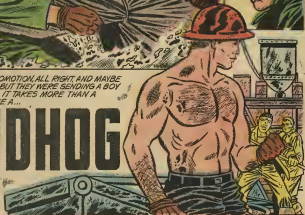


JACK CARRUTHERS



THE KID HAD THE PROMOTION, ALL RIGHT, AND MAYBE HE HAD EARNED IT. BUT THEY WERE SENDING A BOY TO DO A MAN'S JOB. IT TAKES MORE THAN A PROMOTION TO MAKE A...

SANDHOG



I MIGHT HAVE MADE IT GOOD, BUT SUDDENLY THE WHOLE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER SEEMED TO GIVE WAY. THE SHORING SHIFTED, DRAGGING HARRY MACK UNDER...



GOTTA LEAVE... GOTTA GET OUT!!!

A SANDHOG GETS USED TO DANGER. HE LIVES SO NEAR TO IT. BUT HARRY MACK'S CASE HAD SHOCKED ME BADLY. WE HAD WORKED SIDE BY SIDE FOR TWENTY YEARS. YET I WAS IN FOR A FURTHER SHOCK WHEN MY NEW CO-WORKER REPORTED FOR DUTY...



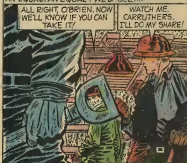
HOLY SMOKE! YOU!!

YEAH! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

DANGER



BEFORE HARRY WAS LOST, YOUNG DAVE O'BRIEN HAD BEEN A 'WIPPER' OR HANDY-BOY. NOW HE WAS AN EQUAL. AN EQUAL? WE'D SEE....



THE KID WAS A GOOD WORKER. DAY AFTER DAY WE DUG INTO THE MUCK BELOW THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER. EACH DAY I EXPECTED TROUBLE BUT IT DIDN'T COME....



THEN ONE DAY, COMING OFF OUR SHIFT, WE WENT THROUGH THE BULKHEAD DOORS INTO THE TUNNEL. WELDERS WERE SEALING THE CAST IRON LINING OF THE TUNNEL. YOUNG O'BRIEN, KID LIKE WAS IN HIGH SPIRITS.



DANGER



I SAID... COUGH... COUGH...
...COME OUT!!



THE SMOKE AND
FUMES GOT ME...
THEN, MY KNEES
BUCKLED...



CHOKING, GAGGING, I BEGAN TO PASS
OUT, WHEN O'BRIEN GRABBED ME...



THEY'VE TAKEN THE LIFT!
BUT I'LL GET TO THE AIR
LOCK, ANYWAY!!



WE WERE IN THE FIRST AIR LOCK
WHEN I CAME TO, THE OTHERS HAD
MOVED ON INTO THE SECOND LOCK.
THE KID AND I WERE ALONE, IN
SPITE OF O'BRIEN'S BRAVERY,
ANGER AND RESENTMENT
AGAINST HIM WELLED UP WITHIN ME.

YOU CAUSED THAT FIRE
WITH YOUR CARELESSNESS!
I'M GONNA BEAT THE DAY-
LIGHTS OUT OF YOU!



I--I--



I'M... SORRY KID
YOU SAVED MY
LIFE!

DON'T APOLOGIZE, JACK.
I HAD IT COMING. IF I
HADN'T STARTED THE
TROUBLE YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE NEEDED SAVING.
I... GUESS I HAVEN'T
MADE THE GRADE!!

DANGER

THE FIRE BURNED ITSELF OUT WITHOUT GREAT DAMAGE, BUT EVERYONE HAD SEEN THE CAUSE OF IT. WE GOT BACK TO FIGHTING THE RIVER AND FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS WE MADE GOOD PROGRESS.



HEY, NIPPER! BRING SOME MORE SHORING PLANKS, WILL YOU?

LAWSON HAD BEEN GOING TO FIRE THE KID, BUT I WAS ABLE TO TALK THE ENGINEER INTO GIVING DAVE HIS OLD JOB AS 'NIPPER'.

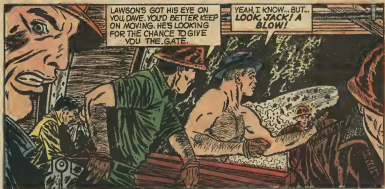
COMING!



BUT ALL THE SPIRIT WAS GONE OUT OF THE KID. HE HAD HAD HIS MIND SET ON BECOMING A SANDHOG.

BRING A COUPLE OF MORE PLANKS, WILL YOU KID?

YEAH!



LAWSON'S GOT HIS EYE ON YOU, DAVE. YOU'D BETTER KEEP ON MOVING. HE'S LOOKING FOR THE CHANCE TO GIVE YOU THE GATE.

YEAH, I KNOW... BUT...
LOOK, JACK! A BLOW!

KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS



Staphylococcus albus



Corynebacterium acnes



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SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all* 3 types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

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DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

DANGER

THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER HAD BECOME THIN AS WE HAD PROGRESSED THE HIGH PRESSURE INSIDE THE TUNNEL HAD BLOWN A SMALL HOLE IN THE MUDDY WALL...

BRING HAY, EVERYBODY! A BLOW!!



MAYBE THAT'LL STOP IT!

I DUNNO...



IT'S BEING SUCKED RIGHT UP! THIS IS A BAD ONE!! BRING A WHOLE BALE!!



THE KID, LAWSON AND I HAULED THE BALE THROUGH THE BULKHEAD DOOR...



SUDDENLY THE THIN TOP OF THE TUNNEL GAVE WAY COMPLETELY EVERYTHING WAS SUCKED INTO AN UPWARD WHIRLPOOL...



DANGER

THROUGH THE RIVER'S BOTTOM, THROUGH FORTY FEET OF WATER, WE SHOT....



HELP!--I--



I PASSED OUT FROM THE KNOCK ON THE HEAD, BUT THE CAPTAIN OF THE RIVER CRAFT THAT PICKED US UP TOLD US THAT IT WAS YOUNG DAVE O'BRIEN WHO KEPT BOTH LAWSON, WHO COULDN'T SWIM, AND ME A-FLOAT....

THROW US A LINE, WILL YOU?



THE BOAT PICKED US UP...

LISTEN... TAKE US TO THE EAST BANK... WHERE THEY'RE DREDGING! IT'S... THE BENDS!!



WE WERE IN BAD SHAPE WHEN WE REACHED SHORE, BUT THANKS TO DAVE O'BRIEN WE WERE STILL ALIVE. THEY HURRIED US TO THE PRESSURE CHAMBER...



WELL WE ALL SURVIVED NONE THE WORSE FOR THE EXPERIENCE. BUT LAWSON WON'T FORGET ABOUT IT FOR A LONG WHILE. AND WHO IS WORKING BESIDE ME NOW? A FULL-FLEDGED SANDHOG. YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT--THE KID, DAVE O'BRIEN! HE'S GOOD TOO. WE'LL MAKE THE PROMOTION STICK THIS TIME!





TWO CAN PLAY



HIGH in the lookout tower, Johnny Price, Fire Ranger, switched off the two-way radio after giving his regular report.

His blue eyes swept the horizon fifty miles away, over the countless lakes and virgin forests he guarded so well. It was a lonely job, but he loved this rugged country.

Opening the trapdoor in the floor, the active twenty-year-old started down the ninety-foot ladder.

The tower was perched on a steep rocky hill that rose beside a beautiful little lake. The Forestry plane, a Piper cub equipped with pontoons, landed there every couple of weeks with supplies. In a clearing near the tower stood the cabin where Johnny ate and slept.

Clang! He was halfway down when a tremendous blow shook the light steel girders.

Clang-eeee! Something bounced off a girder and screamed away—a bullet from a high-powered rifle! He accelerated his descent.

Anger flooded Johnny. "Some trigger-happy poacher. I'll have to remind him that deer and Fire Rangers are out of season. Shooting low. Safer to go up."

If he could get back up to the tower cabin where he kept his new rifle! He had been practicing for weeks on floating targets anchored out in the lake in preparation for the fall hunting season.

He climbed swiftly, but two more quick shots brought him to a standstill once again. Those were above him! Outlined as he was against the sky, he was at the mercy of some mysterious rifleman concealed in the trees. Death sang a savage song whenever he tried to move up or down. Rigid, sweating, he stayed still, waited. He heard a crashing in the bush near at hand. His woodsman's ear told him it was made by humans.

Two men pushed into the clearing. The solid, square-built man was puffing. Johnny noted that his mouth was scarred in a permanent sneer. "Nice work, Deadeye!" he said.

"You sure played cat and mouse with Buster up there. Ain't lost your eye none at all."

The man spoken to had the build of a half-back—big, but graceful as a panther. His eyes were those of a dangerous animal. He cradled a rifle in one arm.

Deadeye! And this gorilla! Dismay knifed Johnny. They were the two killers who broke out of Kingston Prison. The one who called him Buster would be Rocco Fontana. The fancy rifleman would be Frazier Carman, who had won his nickname, "Deadeye", in pre-pen days, collecting a flock of trophies with his shooting!

"You can come down now, Buster." Rocco's thick fingers handled a big automatic with professional ease.

A week ago, headquarters had radioed their description to all Rangers, who were to report suspicious characters. Johnny had practically forgotten, for he was sixty miles from the nearest road or railway. Yet somehow—here they were!

He looked longingly up at the tower. Just one minute at the radio and the plane would be here in half an hour with help. Those fire-fighters were fast.

But Deadeye knew that. That's why he had gotten a long-distance drop on Johnny, taking no chances.

Deadeye's voice was soft. "You got a canoe, down at the lake?"

Johnny nodded.

"Get maps and food from him, Rocco," the low voice continued. "I'll set fire to the bush across the lake. With no rain for weeks, it'll go fine."

Set fire to the bush! Johnny's head swam. "What's the idea?" he demanded. His job was to prevent blazes that could bring death to every leaf, every fish, bird and animal in this region.

Deadeye paid no attention, started to walk past. Johnny sprang. The rifle in Deadeye's

hands whirled in a blinding circle and caught Johnny in the stomach with sickening force. From his knees the young Ranger saw Carman stride on down the trail as if nothing had happened. Gasping, he got up.

"Ha ha! Ain't he the cold one, though?" Rocco's laugh was guttural. "Sometimes he even makes me shiver."

The scar-faced man caught Johnny in a powerful grip before the slim but wiry Ranger had recovered from Carman's blow. Johnny was full of fight. He just *had* to stop Deadeye! But his best wasn't good enough against this gorilla.

Rocco explained, punctuating his remarks with blows. "This is one fire you won't report, Buster. It'll keep every man in this country busy while we get away. The Law Boys are getting too close on our trail."

Ten minutes later, Johnny was sitting in the cabin while Rocco, his eyes smouldering, sat across the room guarding the door. His gun and holster was on the table beside him. The killer had shown the worst of his vicious nature when he found how low the Ranger's food supply was.

With little to hope for, Johnny had kept his head through a brutal beating, waiting, racking his brain for an idea, a break. His eyes still shone defiantly.

"No need to wait for Deadeye," muttered Rocco, darkly. "This guy is no use to us any more," and his hand moved slowly toward the gun.

"If—if you're so hard up for food, why don't you try fishing?" asked Johnny, fighting for more time. "Look, you could use my rod." He reached for his casting rod, hanging on the wall.

Rocco looked interested, but watchful. "Don't try nothing." After a moment, he growled, "How do you use them things? What's that, hanging on the end of the line?"

Johnny tingled. Hanging on the end was a halt with two triple hooks on it. The killer didn't know what it was! "*Maybe*," thought Johnny, "I can show him how it works."

Rocco was fifteen feet away. Johnny tinkered with the rod, measuring that distance

carefully.

The rod arced smoothly. The reel whispered, and the bait shot across the room. Too far—no! A quick flick at the right second, and the bait hit Rocco's gun holster on the table. Instantly, Johnny pulled and buried the barbed hooks deeper.

Rocco leaped! The gun crashed to the floor. He plunged for his gun.

The heavy hand touched the gun, but not before Johnny had grabbed it. Rocco charged like an insane bull. Bolting the door, Johnny heard the angry cries of his former captor!

Speeding for the tower fifty yards away, he climbed the ladder as if his feet were in boiling water. Rocco pounded fiercely on the door of the cabin below.

Johnny loaded the rifle, broke a window, and looked down. The enraged Rocco was locked securely.

He whirled to the other side of the tower. Was he in time to catch Deadeye? The lake's blue surface smiled up at him—empty!

No! Far across, almost to the other side, was his enemy.

This was it. He steadied his nerves with a great effort. Was it to be victory—or a raging forest fire and Deadeye Frazier Carman at large? "Let's hear you talk," he whispered to his rifle. "Looks like about four hundred and fifty yards."

IIS floating targets told him the range. He adjusted the sights. You had fun with me on the ladder, he thought grimly as he took aim. Let's see whether two can play that game.

Once, twice, he squeezed the trigger. Great geysers leaped up just beyond Deadeye. Again, and still again, he fired. "Don't make another move," was the message of those accurately placed shots. And Deadeye, being a very smart man, caught on quickly and began paddling back toward the lookout tower.

Then Johnny, with a sigh of relief, turned the switch on his radio and picked up the microphone to report the capture of two escaped convicts.

THE END

SPEED DEMON

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT BIG RACE AT INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDWAY. ME AND MY BUGGY WERE RUNNING RINGS AROUND ALL THE OTHER CARS...

SOMEDAY I'LL RUN RINGS AROUND BILL GRAFF'S HEAD IF HE DOESN'T SHUT UP ABOUT WHAT A DARE-DEVIL RACER HE USED TO BE!

PVT. BILL GRAFF OF THE U.S. MARINES LIKED TO TALK BIG... BOASTING ABOUT HIS PAST LIFE OVER AND OVER AGAIN... WEARING OUT THE PATIENCE OF EVERY MAN IN HIS OUTFIT. THEN TROUBLE BEGAN, AND BILL HAD TO BACK UP HIS BIG TALK WITH SOME BIG ACTION!

I WENT ZOOMIN' AROUND THIS TURN, CUTTIN' IT CLOSE LIKE I ALWAYS DID...

GRAFF! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE.

I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR BEING A GOOD DRIVER... AND I THINK I'VE FOUND A WAY TO PUT YOUR ABILITY TO USE! MUCH BETTER THAN HAVING YOU WORK BEHIND A STOVE!

YES, SIR?

DANGER

WE GOT A HURRY CALL FOR REPLACEMENTS UP AT THE FRONT LINES, AND ALL OUR DRIVERS ARE OUT! I WANT YOU TO TAKE THAT TRUCK AND GET IT UP THERE AS SOON AS YOU CAN. SHOULD BE A CINCH FOR YOU!

A... A CINCH
--Y. YES, SIR.



A SHORT WHILE LATER...

HI, SPEED DEMON! READY TO ROLL?

Y. YEAH, I'M ALL SET.



HEY... WHAT'S THE MATTER, BILL? YOU LOOK A LITTLE WORRIED! I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN EXPERT AT THIS KIND OF STUFF.

I'M ALL RIGHT. J- JUST FEEL A LITTLE WARM... THAT'S ALL...



BUT BILL GRAFF ISN'T ALL RIGHT! AS HE SITS BEHIND THE WHEEL, TAKING THE TRUCK ALONG THE RUTTED ROAD, HIS TENSENESS GROWS STRONGER AND STRONGER.

I'VE GOT TO HOLD MYSELF TOGETHER! CAN'T CRACK UP... LIKE BEFORE...

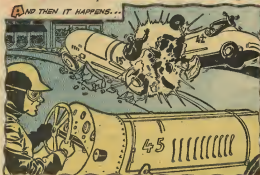


HE FAST RISES UP BEFORE BILL, AND IN HIS THOUGHTS HE IS NO LONGER IN KOREA. HE'S DRIVING A RACING CAR ON THE INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDWAY...

THOSE TWO CARS AHEAD OF ME ARE RUNNING TOO CLOSE!



AND THEN IT HAPPENS...



HE RELIVES THAT MEMORY OF SEEING THAT CRASH ALL OVER AGAIN... REMEMBERING HOW HE HAD PULLED OFF TO THE SIDE OF THE TRACK.

BILL! WHAT'S WRONG?

TH... THAT CRASH! I... I CAN'T GO ON!



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DANGER

THEN... AS A MORTAR SHELL HIT THE ROAD..

BILL REMEMBERS THAT MOMENT AS THE END OF HIS RACING CAREER... AS THE BEGINNING OF HIS FEAR OF DRIVING... HIS INABILITY TO GET BEHIND A WHEEL WITHOUT A MOUNTING SENSE OF TERROR!

THE-THE CRASH!
I-I CAN'T GO ON!

Look
OUT!

BLAM!



I... I CAN'T
DRIVE ANYMORE..

GIVE ME THAT
WHEEL, YOU
IDIOT! DO YOU
WANT TO KILL
US ALL?



SGT. WILLS TAKES THE
WHEEL BEFORE THE TRUCK
CRASHES IN THE DITCH
BESIDE THE ROAD AND...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GREAT
DRIVER! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT
A FAKING PHONY!

I-I'M SORRY!
I C-COULDN'T
HELP MYSELF!



AND SOON..

OKAY, YOU
MEN! HOP TO IT! GET OUT AND
REPORT TO SGT. WINICK! HE'LL
TELL YOU WHAT POSITIONS TO
MAN! GET MOVING!



THE MEN RACE TO FIRING
POSITIONS, FORGETTING
BILL GRAFF IN THE IMMEDIATE
STRUGGLE FACING THEM...

WHO'S THAT
JOE BACK
THERE?

JUST
ANOTHER
HOT AIR
SPECIALIST,
NOT WORTH
TALKING
ABOUT.



SUDDENLY... THE SITUATION BECOMES WORSE!

POUR IT ON!
THEY'RE STARTING
TO BREAK
THROUGH!

GIVE IT TO
'EM!



DANCER

HURRY! PULL BACK TO THE SHELTER OF THESE ROCKS! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO HOLD OUT!



THE SMALL HOLDING FORCE PULLS BACK AND TAKES UP DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AGAINST THE BATTERING OF THE ENEMY! MINUTES PASS AND THE SITUATION GROWS MORE DESPERATE.

I CAN'T RAISE HEADQUARTERS, SIR! THE RADIO'S OUT OF WHACK!

WE'VE GOT TO GET WORD BACK... TELL 'EM TO SEND UP MORE REINFORCEMENTS. IT MEANS SENDING SOMEONE IN THE JEEP.



HOW ABOUT HIM?

AFTER WHAT I HEARD, I WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE A CHANCE! BETTER SEND MULKEY! WE CAN'T REALLY SPARE HIM, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY!



THE WORDS PENETRATE INTO BILL GRAFF'S CONSCIOUSNESS, MAKING HIM REALIZE HOW MUCH HE'S LETTING HIS OUTFIT DOWN, AND HE SUDDENLY DISCOVERS HE HAS TO DO SOMETHING...



WAIT, LIEUTENANT! I CAN BE SPARED BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE! LET ME GO!

YOU KNOW YOU NEED EVERY MAN HERE TO HOLD OFF THE COMMIES! I'M ONLY DEAD WEIGHT! I'M SURE I CAN MAKE IT NOW.

WELL... OKAY. BUT DON'T FALL APART LIKE YOU DID BEFORE.



I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH... I'VE GOT TO!



THAT WAS CLOSE!

DANCER

BILL WAITS FOR THE WAVE OF PANIC THAT HAS ALWAYS COME AT SUCH A MOMENT, BUT INSTEAD...

I'M NOT AFRAID!
I'M NOT AFRAID!

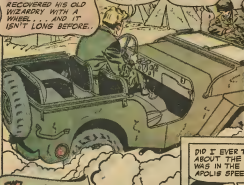
THIS IS BETTER 'N
RACING AT IN-
DIANAPOLIS!



THE LOST COURAGE RETURNS, AND BILL GRAFF FINDS HE HAS RECOVERED HIS OLD WIZARDRY WITH A WHEEL... AND IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE...

GET THE C.O.!
SOMEBODY...
HURRY!

HERE I
AM, GRAFF!
WHAT'S UP?



AND A SHORT WHILE LATER...

THINK YOU
CAN GET
THROUGH
TO THEM,
GRAFF?

YES, SIR! BUT THE
MEN IN BACK WILL
HAVE TO HOLD ON
TIGHT! I'M GONNA
DO SOME FAST
DRIVING!



DID I EVER TELL YOU
ABOUT THE TIME I
WAS IN THE INDIAN-
APOLIS SPEEDWAY?

I GUESS
HE'LL NEVER
CHANGE!



WITH THE REPLACEMENTS BROUGHT UP BY BILL, THE ENEMY FORCES ARE SOON PUSHED BACK AND THE DANGER OF A BREAK-THROUGH AVERTED. THEN ONCE AGAIN, BACK AT HIS JOB IN THE COMPANY MESS...

THIS IS THE
BATTALION
SPEED DEMON,
AND I REALLY
MEAN IT!

YOU'RE
A
NEW
MAN,
AREN'T
YOU?

HI!



DANGER

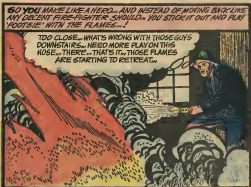
YOU'RE AN EXPERT IN FIRE CONTROL... YOU'VE BEEN PAID TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE HUGE URANIUM ATOMIC PLANT... THE SLIGHTEST ACCIDENT CAN BLOW THE WORKS SKY HIGH! THEN IT HAPPENS... YOUR NERVES FEEL LIKE THEY'RE COMING OUT... YOU HAVE ONLY TEN SECONDS... TEN SECONDS BEFORE YOU MEET THE END....

FIRE FIGHTER



DANGER

YOUR STORY STARTS IN A FIRE-RAZED BUILDING OFF BROADWAY. YOU'RE JIM HENDRICKS, FIRE-FIGHTER ATTACHED TO THE 9TH FIRE PRECINCT. YOU'RE AN EASY GOING GUY THAT LIVES LIFE... AND HATES FIRES!



DANGER

OKAY, THIS PART'S PIZZLING!
THE FIRE WON'T SPREAD ANY
FURTHER!

HEY, GUYS! HEADS
UP! HERE I COME!



MOMENTS LATER, YOU'RE DOWNSTAIRS... AND
MIGHTY GLAD THAT YOU'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE!

WHEN! THAT'S IT,
CHIEF! WE CAN
CHECK OFF THIS
BUILDING! THE
FIRE'S CONTAINED!

JIM, I WANT YOU TO
MEET PAUL EVEREST,
SUPERVISOR OF
THE BROWNHAVER
ATOMIC PLANT.

GLAD TO
MEET
YOU, MR.
HENDRICK



HEY! LOOKOUT! THE
WALL'S GOING!



HOW DO
YOU DO,
MR. EVEREST.

WELL, PAUL,
THINK HELL
DO?

HE'S
OUR
MAN,
SIR!



SO THAT NEXT MORNING, YOU FIND YOURSELF
HIGH IN THE AIR BOUND FOR BROWNHAVER, USA...
LOCATION OF ONE OF THE LARGEST ATOMIC
PLANTS IN THE WORLD...

I'M DREAMING! THIS
CAN'T BE HAPPENING
TO ME!

WELL, IT IS! YOU'RE THE ONLY
MAN QUALIFIED FOR THIS
JOB! CHIEF BATES RE-
COMMENDED YOU HIGHLY!



HOURS LATER, YOU'RE USHERED INTO THE INNER
SANCTUM OF WESLEY BOWLES, DIRECTOR OF THE
BROWNHAVER LAB. YOUR HEART POUNDS IN
ANTICIPATION OF WHAT HE HAS TO SAY...

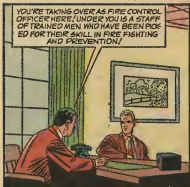
...SOMEWHAT YOUNG... BUT IF PAUL
HAS FAITH IN YOU, I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL
SUCCEED HERE. HAVE YOU BEEN
TOLD THE DETAILS?

NO,
SIR!



DANCER

YOU'RE TAKING OVER AS FIRE CONTROL OFFICER HERE! UNDER YOU IS A STAFF OF TRAINED MEN WHO HAVE BEEN PICKED FOR THEIR SKILL IN FIRE FIGHTING AND PREVENTION!



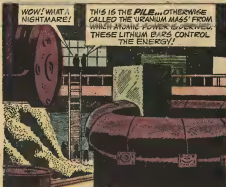
MORE INFORMATION... MORE DIRECTION AND EXPLANATION AND YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL POSITION BECAUSE YOU'RE A TROUBLE SHOOTER... AN EXPERT... NOTED FOR YOUR FLEXIBILITY UNDER DURESS...

YOU'VE WON NINE COMMENDATIONS, HENDRICKS, BUT WITH ALL YOUR EXPERIENCE YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THIS JOB TOUGH AND DANGEROUS! TAKE A LOOK DOWN THERE!



WOW! WHAT A NIGHTMARE!

THIS IS THE **PILE**... OTHERWISE CALLED THE 'URANIUM MASS' FROM WHICH ATOMIC POWER IS DERIVED. THESE LITHIUM BARS CONTROL THE ENERGY!



LOCK THE LITHIUM BARS INTO POSITION AND NO ENERGY WILL BE PRODUCED! THAT GEIGER COUNTER UP THERE NOTES THE AMOUNT OF RADIO-ACTIVITY IN THE PLANT. PASS THE DANGER POINT, AND THOUSANDS OF LIVES CAN BE SNUFFED OUT IN A FLASH!

TO LOCK LITHIUM BARS PULL DOWN



THEN THE REAL REASON FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT BECOMES CLEAR! THE F.B.I. HAND PICKED YOU... YOUR WAR RECORD HAD BEEN OUTSTANDING... YOU'RE THE MOST LOGICAL SUCCESSOR TO THE GUY WHO JUST DIED HERE... BURNED TO DEATH...

THIS IS MISS SHEILA STEWARD! SHE'S TO BE YOUR ASSISTANT! SHE'LL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE!

WELL... HELLO!



YOU'RE COMPLETELY BEWITCHED BY SHEILA. SHE'S NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL... BUT QUITE A BRAIN... AND UTTERLY INDISPENSIBLE IN THE HUNDREDS OF MEMOS AND ASSORTED TASKS THAT BECAME YOUR 'BABY' DURING THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW ON AND YOU FALL FOR HER LIKE A TON OF BRICKS!



DANGER

BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A GOOD WAR RECORD BECAUSE YOU HAVE A-1 EXPERIENCE IN FIRE FIGHTING, BECAUSE YOU'RE A TOUGH BIRD IN TIGHT SITUATIONS, YOU'RE A TOP MAN IN YOUR OFFICE.

HO-HUM... WHAT'S ON THE DOCKET, SWEILA?

THE CATWALKS HAVE TO BE CHECKED TODAY!



YES, A TOP MAN... AND VERY BORED... UNTIL... ONE AFTERNOON... AT THE FAR END OF THE PLANT...

GENTLEMEN! THE ENERGY OF THE PILE IS GOING TO BE INCREASED!

I STILL HAVE MY DOUBTS, PROFESSOR... SOMETHING MIGHT GO WR...



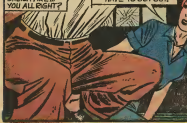
THE EXPLOSION CUTS YOUR SPEECH SHORT AND HURLS YOU TO THE FLOOR....!



HOW YOU STILL MANAGE TO LIVE YOU'LL NEVER KNOW! HOW THE COUNTRYSIDE HASN'T BEEN ERASED YOU'LL NEVER GUESS... ALL YOU'RE AWARE OF RIGHT NOW... IS THAT YOU'RE STILL BREATHING!

GOOD HEAVENS? WHAT HAPPENED? SWEILA ARE... YOU ALL RIGHT?

Y-YES! ONE OF THE EXPERIMENTS MUST HAVE BACKFIRE! WE HAVE TO GET OUT!



FIRE! IT'S SPREADING A FOOT A SECOND!

GOOD HEAVENS! THE ENTIRE RIGHT WING OF THE PLANT HAS GONE UP IN SMOKE!



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DANGER

BUT NOW YOU RUSH OUT INTO PANIC AND TERROR! SIRENS, WAILS OF PEOPLE, FLAMES... ALL MERGE IN ONE GIANT SOUND OF LIFE! AND INSIDE...

SOMEONE GIVE ME AN ASBESTOS SUIT! HEY, YOU! HAND ME THAT PORTABLE EXTINGUISHER!

YES, SIR!



JIM... DON'T GO IN THERE! THE RADIO-ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED! YOU'LL BE KILLED!

I'VE GOT TO TRY AND PUT OUT THAT FIRE. IF IT TOUCHES THE PILE, WE'LL ALL BE BLASTED OUT OF EXISTENCE! SEE YOU, SHEILA!



THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO STOP THAT FIRE... EITHER CLOSE OFF THE MASTER DOOR CONNECTING THIS BUILDING TO THE BURNING WING, OR LOCK THE LITHIUM SO THAT IF THE FIRE DOES REACH THE ATOMIC PILE, IT'LL JUST MELT!



WOW! THE RADIO ACTIVITY IS AT THE DANGER POINT! THIS HEAT IS STARTING THE URANIUM PILE TOWARDS A CHAIN REACTION!



I'LL TRY THE MASTER DOOR FIRST!



WHIEW! TWO MORE SECONDS, AND I'D HAVE BEEN ROASTED! LOOKS LIKE I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE! IT'S THE LITHIUM CONTROL BAR OR NOTHING!



DANGER

YOU GIFT YOUR TEETH AND HEAT... BECAUSE THE CONTROL BAR IS RIGHT OVER THE FIRE! ONE SLIP ON THE IRON LADDER IN YOUR CLUMSY ASBESTOS SUIT MEANS DEATH...

JIM! COME DOWN! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT! THE GEIGER IS GOING CRAZY!

SORRY, GUYS! BUT IF I DON'T PUSH THAT MASTER LITHIUM LOCK INTO PLACE ON TIME, WE'LL ALL BE WATER-VAPOR!

I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT!

.... PLEASE.... GOT TO MAKE IT.... GOT TO...



YOU SIT THERE PARALYZED NUMB... WAITING! THEN YOU GRADUALLY REALIZE THAT THERE IS NO GOING TO BE AN EXPLOSION! YOU REALIZE THAT YOU CAN STILL BREATHE, STILL WALK DOWN THAT LADDER, AND OUT OF THE BUILDING...

OH DARLING! I LOVE YOU!! I NEVER WANT US TO GO THROUGH ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN!

MAYBE, BABY BUT MY BACHELOR DAYS ARE OVER! THAT'S FOR SURE!

SO YOU KISS AND YOU FORGET, EVEN THOUGH TOMORROW WILL BRING A LOT OF CONSEQUENCES... EVEN THOUGH TOMORROW WILL STILL BRING, AS IT ALWAYS DOES, INEVITABLE RISKS! BUT TODAY HAS MADE TOMORROW BEARABLE... FOR YOU'VE FOUND LIFE... AND HAPPINESS ASA... FIRE-FIGHTER!!





Mrs. Ruth Long

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Color _____ Color _____

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